

NEWS RELEASE

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LOCAL CHARITIES TO BENEFIT FROM RACE MONEY

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A family charitable trust committed to supporting local charities in Colchester is benefiting from a Government Challenge to raise more money for Essex. The donation which was received by the Milsom Charitable Fund from Pridmore's Bookmakers has increased by 50% thanks to the Grassroots Grants and Endowment Match Challenge in Essex.

Shaun Pridmore presented the cheque to Paul Milsom, Managing Director of Milsom Hotels. Paul said, "The Milsom family has a long association with Pridmore's who have run many successful race day events at Le Talbooth. For the first time, we agreed between us, that profits from this year's events would be donated to our Charitable Fund." He added "At least customers who backed the wrong horses can have some satisfaction knowing that their money will support good causes in Essex!"

The donation of £3,045 was increased to £4,567 thanks to the Grassroots Endowment Challenge for Essex which is managed by local grantmaking trust, Essex Community Foundation.

Pridmore's Bookmakers is a family business, established in 1930, and with betting shops throughout Essex and the South East of England.

Paul's father Gerald, who died in 2005, was a great supporter of charitable activity so following his death, Paul and his wife Geraldine established The Milsom Charitable Fund to carry on Gerald's legacy.

For more information about Essex Community Foundation, the Grassroots Challenge and the various Named Funds which the Foundation manages, visit www.essexcommunityfoundation.org.uk or call Bob Sherer on 01245 355947.

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There has never been a better time to Give

The Grassroots Grants Challenge is a Government funded programme designed to encourage local individuals and businesses to help build long-term endowed funds for their communities. As well as making £2 million available to award in small grants to grassroots groups across Essex, Southend and Thurrock, the Government will match every donation that is received by Essex Community Foundation from individuals and businesses.

For every £2 raised, the Government will add £1. The aim is to build a £5 million fund by March 2011 which will provide sustainable financial support for local charitable groups and projects.

If you would like to help the Foundation meet the Grassroots Challenge, please contact Bob Sherer on 01245 355947. You can also visit www.essexcommunityfoundation.org.uk for details.

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For further information contact

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Shaun Pridmore from Pridmore's Bookmakers presents a cheque to Paul Milsom, Managing Director of Milsom Hotels and Jo Murphy from Essex Community Foundation



Notes to Editors:

MILSOM HOTELS

Milsom Hotels and Restaurants own and run five fabulous properties in East Anglia - Le Talbooth restaurant, Maison Talbooth and Milsoms in Dedham, The Pier in Harwich and Milsoms Kesgrave Hall. They pride themselves in being the finest places to eat, drink and stay in the area. For more information visit www.milsomhotels.com

ESSEX COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Essex Community Foundation was set up in 1996 and has established a grants programme which has seen around 3,500 Essex based charities and community groups receive £14 million in grants. Funds are distributed on behalf of a wide range of donors who want their charitable giving to be accessible to local charities. www.essexcommunityfoundation.org.uk

Community Foundations are independent charities committed to supporting projects that engage local people. Since the 1980s, a nationwide network of Community Foundations has developed, endorsed by many major public figures and leading companies.

There are 1000's of charities and voluntary groups working for the community to create a richer society for all. Community Foundations build endowed funds and make grants to these organisations.

- There are 55 local Community Foundations in the UK covering 94% of the population
- Collectively they manage endowed funds of circa £200 million
- In 2006/07 Community Foundations distributed grants totalling £75million.

Grassroots Grants

Grassroots Grants, funded by Office of the Third Sector (OTS) and administered by the Community Development Foundation (CDF), recognises the vital contribution these 'grassroots groups' make to improving our communities.

Over three years, Grassroots Grants will support the sector in building stronger, more active communities with two complementary approaches. An £80 million grants programme will make small grants available to grassroots groups across England. An innovative £50 million endowments match

challenge will enable local funders to raise donations on a matched basis and invest them to sustain grassroots funding into the future.

Essex Community Foundation is delivering the Grassroots Grants programme in Essex. For more information visit www.essexcommunityfoundation.org.uk

The Community Development Foundation (CDF) is the Lead National Partner appointed to administer, support, monitor and evaluate Grassroots Grants on behalf of Office of the Third Sector (OTS).

CDF is the leading source of intelligence, guidance and delivery on community development in England and across the UK. Our mission is to lead community development analysis and strategy to empower people to influence decisions that affect their lives. For more information, go to www.cdf.org.uk

Office of the Third Sector

As part of the Cabinet Office, the Office of the Third Sector leads work across government to support the environment for a thriving third sector (voluntary and community groups, social enterprises, charities, cooperatives and mutuals), enabling the sector to campaign for change, deliver public services, promote social enterprise and strengthen communities. For further information, please go to www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/thirdsector